

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 IO-10 ACDA-05 ISO-00 EURE-00

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DHA-02

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P 181614Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8004

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, CU, VE, AO, SP, CH, LA, AS

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - DEC 18

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS, IOP/M
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY:

-- THE RANGE OF NEGATIVE STORIES ON THE U.S. COVERS REPORTED U.S.-CANADIAN PROBLEMS, CIA ACTIVITIES ABROAD, THE TRIAL OF A SOUTH DAKOTA INDIAN, CARTOONS AND PHOTOS. IN OTHER ITEMS, THE PRESS REPORTS THE REGULAR U.S.-SOVIET SALT MEETING IN GENEVA AND CONCLUSION OF THE APOLLO-SOYUZ VISIT TO VENEZUELA;
-- VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR SALOM ARRIVED AND WAS MET AND FETED BY GROMYKO;
-- ANGOLA COVERAGE CONCENTRATES ON STORIES OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT, DRAWING A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN A REPORTED ATROCITY IN ANGOLA AND THE SONG MY (MY LAI) INCIDENT. AMBASSADOR MOYNIAH IS CHARACTERIZED AS "DIPLOMAT DEMAGOGUE."
-- THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S REFORM PROGRAM IS DISMISSED AS WINDOW-DRESSING;
-- AN INTERVIEW WITH LAOTIAN PRIME MINISTER KAYSONE STRESSES THE ACHIEVEMENT OF "PEOPLE'S POWER" AND APPEALS FOR FURTHER SOVIET AID AND SUPPORT;
-- THE OPENING OF THE CUBAN PARTY CONGRESS RATES LONG RHAPSODIC REPORTS;
-- PRAVDA EXPRESSES MILD REGRET AT THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTION RESULTS;
-- KANG SHENG'S DEATH IN CHINA IS REPORTED WITH A NASTY BIO NOTE. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. PRAVDA CARRIES A TASS ITEM FROM OTTAWA ON AMBASSADOR PORTER'S REPORTED REMARKS AND PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S RESPONSE. SECRETARY KISSINGER, SAYS TASS, WAS "FORCED" TO ISSUE A STATEMENT DISAVOWING THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS. 8";3 586-'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT KONDRASHOV COMMENTS ON DISCLOSURES OF CLANDESTINE CIA ACTIVITIES IN CHILE AND ANGOLA (SEE PARA 4, BELOW). KRASNAYA ZVEZDA REPORTS THE TRIAL OF AN AMERICAN INDIAN AS AN ALLEGED EXAMPLE OF UNEQUAL RIGHTS UNDER U.S. LAW. PRAVDA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PHOTO SHOWS A DEMONSTRATION IN WASHINGTON ON BEHALF OF "THE WILMINGTON TEN", WHILE ITS CARTOON SHOWS U.S. "MONOPOLY" THREATENING LATIN AMERICAN WORKERS. IN OTHER ITEMS, PRAVDA CARRIES A BRIEF REPORT WITHOUT COMMENT ON THE REGULAR SALT MEETING IN GENEVA AND A FAVORABLE ITEM ON THE WARM WELCOME IN VENEZUELA FOR APOLLO-SOYUZ COMMANDERS LEONOV AND STAFFORD. NATIONAL TV NEWS PROGRAM VREMYA, IN COMMENTING ON JUST CONCLUDED

CIEC CONFERENCE IN PARIS, DISPARAGED "KISSINGER'S"
EFFORTS THERE TO PRESSURE OIL PRODUCERS TO REDUCE
PRICES.

3. VENEZUELA. ALL CENTRAL MEDIA REPORT THE ARRIVAL OF VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR SALOM ON DEC 16. THE SOVIET GREETERS WERE LED BY FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO AND FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV. PRAVDA REPORTS THAT THE TWO MINISTERS HELD TALKS ON DEC 17 IN A "BUSINESSLIKE AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE." AT THE LUNCH HOSTED BY GROMYKO HE PRAISED VENEZUELA'S EFFORTS TO CONTROL ITS OWN NATURAL RESOURCES, SAID THAT THE TWO SIDES' POSITIONS WERE "IDENTICAL OR CLOSE" ON MANY INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS, AND EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THE "FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE OF CHILE." SALOM'S REPLY STRESSED VENEZUELA'S DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF LATIN AMERICAN IN WORLD AFFAIRS.

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4. ANGOLA. IZVESTIYA'S KONDRAHOV, IN HIS ARTICLE ON CIA ACTIVITIES. CONCENTRATES ON "ANOTHER SECRET OPERATION BY THE CIA" IN ANGOLA. ACCORDING TO KONDRAHOV, EVEN AT PRESENT PEAK OF VARIOUS INVESTIGATIONS OF THE CIA'S ACTIVITIES ANOTHER OPERATION IN ANGOLA IS BEING GINNED UP. KONDRAHOV CALLS ANTI-SOVIET REMARKS BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN (ZA DIPLOMAT-DEMAGOGUE") NOTHING BUT A "SMOKESCREEN" FOR THE GROWING U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. KONDRAHOV ALSO REPLAYS STORIES THAT THERE ARE FIVE U.S. PLANES FLYING "RECONNAISANCE" MISSIONS OVER ANGOLA, AND THAT THE CIA (THROUGH CORE) IS RECRUITING BLACK AMERICAN VETERANS FOR SERVICE AS "MERCENARIES". PRAVDA (DEC 18) CORRESPONDENT O. IGNATYEV RECOUNTS A RECENT TRIP HE TOOK THROUGH THE HINTERLAND EAST OF LUANDA. CENTRALEVENT IS THE DISCOVERY OF A NUMBER OF BODIES LEFT IN THE WAKE OF A "BAND OF INTERVENTIONISTS." FOLLOWING HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE ALLEGED ATROCITY, IGNATYEV REPEATS THE CHARGE THAT A RECRUITING OFFICE IS OPERATING IN FRESNO SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR SERVICE IN ANGOLA. IGNATYEV CLAIMS THAT "ABOUT 400" PERSONS ARE READY TO BE SENT TO ANGOLA (PRESUMABLY AS A RESULT OF THIS OFFICE'S OPERATION) IN ORDER "TO BUILD ON ANGOLAN SOIL A NEW SONG MY. IGNATYEV DENIES THAT THE WAR IN ANGOLA IS A CIVIL WAR, INSISTING THAT IT IS A STRUGGLE BY THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA AGAINST "THE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM AND FOREIGN REACTION." COMMENT. IGNATYEV'S LINKING

OF AN ATROCITY STORY IN ANGOLA WITH A RESURRECTI
OF THE IMAGES OF SONG MY IS THE LOWEST PROPAGANDA
BLOW WE HAVE SEEN YET ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA.
END COMMENT.

5. SPAIN. PRAVDA REPORTS (FROM TASS IN PARIS) ON
THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S NEW REFORM PROGRAM BUT SAYS
THAT IT MAKES NO PROVISION FOR AN AMNESTY NOR FOR THE
LEGALIZATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE
COMMUNISTS. THE PROGRAM, IT CONCLUDES, IS MAINLY
AIMED AT PUTTING UP A MORE APPEALING FAÇADE BEFORE
THE EYES OF THE WORLD.

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6. LAOS. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA CARRY AN IDENTICAL
INTERVIEW WITH LAOTIAN FIRST SECRETARY AND PRIME
MINISTER KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN WHO LAUDS THE IMPORTANCE
OF BOTH SOVIET INSPIRATION (LENIN) AND SOVIET AID.
THE LAOTIAN PARTY, SAYS KAYSONE, STRUGGLED SUCCESS-
FULLY AGAINST FRENCH AND AMERICAN "IMPERIALISTS,"
BUT MUST STILL STRENGTHEN ITS AUTHORITY AND THWART
EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE IT BY "AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS,"
"THAI AUTHORITIES," AND "LAOTIAN REACTIONARIES."
PRAVDA (DEC 17) ALSO CARRIES A PUFF PIECE TRACING
LAOS' EVOLUTION TOWARD A PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC,
REPEATEDLY PRAISING CONSISTENT SOVIET AID AND
SUPPORT. COMMENT. THESE ITEMS TAKE UP CONSIDERABLE
SPACE IN THE PAPERS AND THEREBY SIGNIFY FULL
ENDORSEMENT FOR THE NEW LAOTIAN LEADERSHIP. KAYSON'S
PROFUSE THANKS AND HIS RATHER DIRECT APPEAL FOR MORE
AID PROBABLY SHOW THAT MOSCOW IS WEIGHING THE MATTER
FAVORABLY. END COMMENT.

7. CUBA. THE OPENING OF THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF CUBA IS THE BIGGEST EVENT IN
TODAY'S PRESS. CASTRO SPEECH ALSO RECEIVED EXTEN-
SIVE COVERAGE ON NATIONAL TV. PRAVDA AND
IZVESTIYA (DEC 17) CARRIED THE CONGRATULATORY TELE-
GRAM FOR THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH WISHED
THE CUBAN PARTY AND PEOPLE SUCCESS IN THEIR "NEW
VICTORY."

8. AUSTRALIA. PRAVDA'S SYDNEY CORRESPONDENT
VLADIMIR BOL'SHAKOV COMMENTS ON THE AUSTRALIAN
ELECTION RESULTS, GIVING THE TALLY IN BOTH HOUSES
TO DATE. HE INDICATES THAT THE MAIN ISSUE WAS THE
ECONOMY, EVEN THOUGH THE WHITLAM GOVERNMENT HAD MADE
SOME POSITIVE STEPS, AND CONTINUE THAT THE CONSERVA-
TIVE COALITION HAD SEVERAL ADVANTAGES INCLUDING ITS

CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME OF THE ELECTION
AND A BIASED "BIG CAPITALIST" PRESS. HE CONCLUDES
THAT "THE FUTURE WILL SHOW" HOW THE NEW GOVERNMENT
WILL ACT IN THE CHANGED INTERNATIONAL ARENA OF THE
PRESENT PERIOD.

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9. CHINA. IZVESTIYA REPORTS THE DEATH OF KANG SHENG, AS PRAVDA DID ON DEC 17, BUT ADDS A SHORT BIO NOTE SAYING THAT KANG WAS THE SECURITY CHIEF AND MAO'S "RIGHT HAND" IN THE CAMPAIGN "ON THE RECTIFICATION OF (WORK) STYLE," WHICH LED TO THE REPRESSION OF "COMMUNIST-INTERNATIONALISTS". HE ALSO HELPED TO REPRESS "HEALTHY FORCES" IN THE PRC AND WAS AN ADVISOR TO THE CULTURAL/REVOLUTION GROUP, SAYS IZVESTIYA.
STOESSEL

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